

Testimony – House Concurrent Resolution No. 19

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House Commerce Committee
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Hello Chairman Huizenga and committee members. My name is Mary Roehr. I am an external and government affairs manager with SBC. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I am testifying today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 19.

As stated in the resolution, every regulation should be developed in the real-world context of our state's competition for economic development and jobs. We agree.

In today's telecommunications landscape of vigorous, cross-platform competition—where cable companies offer phone service and VOIP and phone companies are moving into video, for example—we need consistent rules.

A patchwork of multi-jurisdictional regulations, particularly for companies like SBC that operate in multiple states, creates regulatory uncertainty. And that uncertainty and lack of consistency stifles infrastructure investment.

Consistent rules provide the certainty that is necessary for all businesses – including the telecommunications industry – and encourage investment and innovation. Investing in Michigan leads to economic development and jobs.

Accessible and affordable broadband access is a top goal nationally and right here in Michigan because it helps ensure that all Americans are empowered for success in tomorrow's economy. We are proud to be a leader in that effort. We thank Representative Baxter for introducing this resolution supporting economic development and job creation and the clarity that it will provide for many companies, including SBC.

Thank you. I am happy to answer your questions.